

# Working with Woven Wool

## QUILTERS' Tips & Techniques

from *The Quilted Crow Girls*



### What Is Felted Woven Wool?

First, let's explain the differences between felted wool and wool felt. Felted wool is a woven wool fabric that's been washed and agitated in hot water and dried with heat. This process condenses and compacts (felts) the fibers and results in a lovely soft, fluffy fabric that won't fray. Projects made with felted woven wool can be laundered without the worry of shrinkage or fraying. By comparison, "Wool Felt" is made up of individual wool fibers that have been wet, heated, and tightly compressed together, as opposed to being woven together. Wool felt cannot be laundered as successfully as felted wool.

### It's Easy to Felt Wool:

1. Wash the wool on a hot cycle, agitating for approximately 20 minutes. Spin (Normal cycle).
2. Machine dry on a Warm/Hot setting. Allow about 45 minutes for a 5-yard length of wool, depending on your dryer.
3. Remove wool from the dryer immediately and wrap on a cardboard fabric bolt to avoid creasing the wool.



### Books and Patterns by *The Quilted Crow Girls*

**NEW!** Look for *Country Elegance*, The Quilted Crow Girl's NEW BOOK, available September 2014 through Martingale, and their bestselling first title, *Elegant Quilts, Country Charm* (2012, Martingale) The books and patterns feature gorgeous appliqué projects in cotton and wool, with the Girls' expert tips!



### To Felt or Not to Felt - It's a Personal Choice

Felted woven wool looks soft and fluffy and very inviting off the bolt! Some shop owners will felt the wool for you when the fabric first comes in, so that it's pre-shrunk and ready for your appliqué project. If you purchase your wool unfelted, your first decision will be whether to use it as it is, or to felt it yourself. We both prefer to felt it first, then roll it onto a cardboard bolt for storage.

### Can it be overdyed?

We have provided a wonderful palette of colours in "The Seasons" Wool Collection, but yes, of course they can be used for overdyeing!

### Suggested supplies:

- We use and recommend Aurifil 28wt Cotton Mako thread for hand sewing and Aurifil 50wt Cotton Mako thread for machine appliqué.
- Size 11, 10 or 9 Milliners needles and/or size 8 appliqué needles for hand sewing
- 4" fine-point embroidery scissors. This size is ideal for cutting tiny shapes and for cutting out shapes for reverse appliqué.
- Stapler — to temporarily attach appliqués to the background fabric. A 12" office stapler makes it much easier to reach areas that a standard-size stapler can't.
- Marking: Ceramic pencil – we recommend Sewline
- Water-soluble glue stick
- Template plastic
- Freezer paper (light weight)
- Light box
- Rotary-cutting equipment
- Sandpaper board



**FREE PROJECT** ▶  
see reverse

# "Birdee" Pincushion

and Woven Wool Tips

featuring **"The Seasons" Wool Collection**  
by The Quilted Crow Girls for Marcus Fabrics

FREE PROJECT!



## INSTRUCTIONS

### Un-felted Wool Requirements:

- Two squares Pink Blossom (or your choice) for front & back of pincushion, at least 5" x 5"
  - One rectangle 5" x 4" Cranberry (or your choice) for birdee appliqué
1. Cut two squares 5" x 5" of Pink Blossom wool - one for the front (background) and one for the back.
  2. Trace the appliqué design onto the dull side of freezer paper. Cut out roughly just outside of the drawn line.
  3. Iron the freezer paper shiny side down onto your wool for the appliqué.
  4. Cut the shape out on the drawn line then tear the freezer paper away.
  5. Using a water soluble glue stick, apply some glue to the back of the shape and position in the centre of the 5" square.
  6. Secure the appliqué piece further using an office stapler.
  7. Using a thread to match the wool, blanket stitch your piece into place. (We recommend Aurifil 28wt Cotton Mako thread)
  8. Once your appliqué is complete, remove the staples.
  9. Place the two squares right sides together and using a 1/4" seam allowance, sew around the two pieces, leaving an opening approximately 2" long for turning.
  10. Clip corners, then turn inside out. Fill with 1-2 cups of ground walnut shells, then stitch the opening closed.



Detail of wool appliqué block from  
"The Seasons on Pomegranate Lane"

Ask your local quilt shop for our new BOM program, *"The Seasons on Pomegranate Lane"*. It combines our debut wool collection, **The Seasons** and our debut print fabric line, **Pomegranate Lane**.

You can view the collections, BOM details and projects online at [www.MarcusFabrics.com](http://www.MarcusFabrics.com)

**Leonie and Deirdre**  
– *The Quilted Crow Girls*

